

# LAST RESISTANCE NANKING DEFENDERS DESPERATE FIGHTING JAPANESE SWEEP ONWARD HAND-TO-HAND ENCOUNTERS

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright  
(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that in face of stubborn opposition the Japanese troops are now advancing toward the centre of Nanking. They are supported by machine-guns and field guns mounted on the south-eastern wall. The Japanese are wearing gas masks, as they allege that the Chinese are firing gas shells.

Other despatches say that while Tokio, the streets of which are decorated, waits to celebrate its "Mafeking night," the Chinese are making a last gallant effort to stem the Japanese tide sweeping over the walls of Nanking.

Because of unfamiliarity with the city streets, the Japanese forces suspend their operations late at night. The Chinese then launch desperate counter-attacks, which result in bitter hand-to-hand fighting.

Nanking has become a city of horror. Unless the Chinese surrender they are likely to have to fight to the death, because the Japanese announce their complete mastery of the Wuhu area, thus making an effective retreat most difficult.

There is little doubt that the Japanese will shortly engulf Nanking, but not much reliance is to be placed on the constant bulletins from the interior that the Rising Sun Flag dominates the entire city.

## FLAG FLIES OVER WALLS SMOKE FROM BURNING VILLAGES REFUGEES CROWDING FOR SHELTER

(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)

LONDON, Dec. 11

The Japanese flag flies over the walls of Nanking, but blood runs in the cobbled streets as Chinese troops stand desperately against the Japanese troops exultant in the honour of being first to enter the historic walled city.

The correspondent of the Times at Nanking says that although fierce fire is being exchanged from the walls and almost continual aerial attacks are being made, they are confined to Chinese troop concentrations, and civilian casualties are small. However, the gunfire, bombing and smoke from the burning villages outside the walls, which are ringed with fire, has quickened the influx of refugees to the safety zone, where thousands are still without shelter.

Throughout yesterday the Japanese rained bombs from the air and guns kept up a heavy barrage while advancing infantry, supported by tanks, passed through the breach at the Gate of Glory, where they charged with great gallantry. Other units are trying to force a way in from the north, the east and south. The Japanese claimed that they had already seized six of the city's gates and penetrated to the inner city.

One report from the Imperial headquarters announced that troops, commanded by Prince Yasuhiko Fushimi, a relative of the Emperor, and two Japanese observation balloons appeared south of Purple Mountain in the afternoon and remained aloft in spite of all attempts by the Chinese to bring them down.

At Pukow bombs fell near the United States gunboat Panay during an aerial attack on the city, and the explosions rocked the ship.

The detachment which forced a gate at Nanking received a message from General Matsui, commanding officer, stating: "Heartily congratulations. I appreciate your successful attainment of a difficult task."

The Chinese Embassy in London issued a statement saying: "Desperate fighting raged on the outskirts of Nanking. Japanese vanguards made daring thrusts toward the two southern gates of the city and captured the Tachiaochang airfield after encountering stiff resistance. However, the invaders were forced to retire."

Seventy Japanese aeroplanes bombed Nanking in relays, dropping 300 bombs. In a raid on Nanchang the Japanese bombed the medical college and women's hospitals, resulting in eight deaths.

## INVADERS' USE OF TANKS BUILDINGS IN WAY DEMOLISHED GUNS BATTER BREACHES IN WALLS

LONDON, Dec. 11

The Domei News Agency reports that the ultimatum of General Matsui to Nanking, to surrender, having expired without a reply, the Japanese launched a general attack on Nanking at 12.30. They anticipate days of desperate fighting, even if they enter the city.

General Tang Sheng-chi greeted the enemy with artillery and machine-gun fire as they moved forward with machine-guns, cannon and tanks. Buildings in the line of fire were blown up.

The main Japanese army is still between three and four miles from the walls of the city, every point of which, however, is within machine-gun range.

The Japanese claim to have captured the Chungshan gate, in the east wall; the Hungwu and Suhsu gates, in the south-east wall; and the Tungchi and Chupan gates, in the south wall. The gates that it is claimed to have been captured give the Japanese access to the most populous part of the city.

A detachment, descending from Purple Mountain, battered down the Taiping gate and gained a foothold between the inner and outer walls, where desperate street fighting followed. Japanese artillery made breaches elsewhere in the outer wall.

The Japanese captured the walled city of Tansu, on the south bank of the Yangtze.

The United States Embassy is reported to be transmitting to the Chinese and Japanese a proposal for a three days' truce to enable a Chinese withdrawal, during which the Japanese should not attack.

### LECTURES ABANDONED

### ANTI-JAPANESE FEELING

LONDON, Dec. 10  
Owing to strong anti-Japanese feeling shown by students, an Oxford course of six lectures on aspects of Japanese culture by an Embassy official, Professor Doi, was abandoned.

### ANTI-PIRACY PATROL

### WITHDRAWAL OF AIRCRAFT

(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)  
RUGBY, Dec. 11  
The five giant Singapore Royal Air Force aeroplanes are being withdrawn from the Mediterranean anti-piracy patrol.

## SAILOR KILLED

### BRITISH WARSHIP

### FLAG CAPTAIN WOUNDED

### JAPANESE FIELD BATTERY

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright  
(Received December 12, 12.45 a.m.)

A message from Hankow says the Japanese field battery fired on H.M.S. Ladybird at Wuhu. One bluejacket was killed.

Flag-Captain O'Donnell and a bluejacket were injured. There were four direct hits on the Ladybird.

## STERN POLICY

### AFTER CITY'S FALL

### TOKIO CABINET'S DECISION

### RECONSTRUCTION OF CHINA

(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)

The Tokyo correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says the Japanese Cabinet is reported to have decided to withdraw diplomatic recognition from the present Chinese Government to pursue a long-term fighting policy against the forces of Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, and to aid in the reconstruction of another China. This will only mean the creation of a Government to replace Chiang Kai-shek's Government which is amenable to Japan.

The Tokyo correspondent of the Times reports that the Japanese Cabinet is actively debating the policy to be followed after the fall of Nanking, which the Minister of War, General Sugiyama, declares cannot be regarded as the end of the war, which must be prosecuted until Japan's objectives are attained, namely, the destruction of the Chinese Army and submission of the Chinese Government.

The Asahi Shinbun states that the Imperial Council will be summoned as soon as it becomes clear what China intends to do after the fall of Nanking.

If a new and tractable Chinese administration appears, the council will authorise peace negotiations, but if the Chinese resistance continues, the council will decide that the "epoch-making time has come and Japan must go forward as the master East Asian nation to establish permanent peace."

A manifesto from an important group of Chinese leading citizens representing Shanghai's population of 3,000,000, vows to uphold China's honour and refuses to co-operate with Japan or buy Japanese goods. It emphatically repudiates any spurious organisations created by the enemy, and pledges full allegiance to the Central Government and full support to Marshal Chiang Kai-shek in abandoning all idea of compromise.

## CONFLICTING HOPES

### JAPANESE PEACE TERMS

### COMPLETE DOMINATION

LONDON, Dec. 10

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that the Japanese activities around Nanking are like those of a cat playing with a mouse. Well-informed circles believe the Japanese can capture the city as soon as their leaders desire. Already Japanese tanks have been twice inside the breached walls and come out again.

The Army Command is still hoping that China will sue for peace before the capital falls. The Chinese, on the contrary, are hoping to draw the Japanese deep into the hinterland after the capital has been taken.

"The Japanese peace terms, I learn from semi-official sources," adds the correspondent, "are nothing less than complete domination of North and Central China, and the establishment of a Japanese Concession in Shanghai northward of the Soochow Creek. Foreign rights and Customs will be respected, but Japan will constitute herself to judge the merits of the claims."

## NEUTRAL REFUGEE ZONE

### JAPANESE TAKE CONTROL

(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)  
SHANGHAI, Dec. 11

Since the shooting of a Japanese sentry on the border of the area, the Japanese have taken over control of the Nantao neutral refugee zone, south of the French Concession. This action ousts the International Committee from authority.

Admiral Sir Charles Little has gone from Shanghai to Hongkong in H.M.S. Falmouth.

British residents of Shanghai are most perturbed at Japanese prying into shops in the Nanking Road. No protection is offered by the civil and military police.

British residents also are incensed at the seizure of harbour launches.

## KING'S ACCESSION

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

### ROYAL SALUTE IN LONDON

(Received December 12, 9.30 p.m.)

Flags were flying at the masthead in London to-day, and the Royal Salute was fired at noon, in celebration of the first anniversary of the accession to the Throne of King George VI.

## FARM LEGISLATION

### UNITED STATES MEASURE

(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11  
The House of Representatives by 268 votes to 129 approved the permanent farm measure designed to control production and stabilise prices of wheat, maize and other staples.

The bill offers payments to farmers who co-operate in a plan to reduce the acreage under production and imposes marketing quotas with penalty taxes on commodities marketed in excess of such quotas. It also authorises the granting of loans on surplus crops. The measure involves a minimum expenditure of 500,000,000 dollars a year.

## TRAIN WRECK

### BLIZZARD RAGING

### THIRTY-FIVE DEAD

### SUFFERING OF INJURED

### ARDUOUS RESCUE WORK

### ERROR WITH SIGNAL

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright  
(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)

LONDON, Dec. 11  
A disastrous railway accident, due to a signal error, resulted in 35 passengers being killed and over 40 injured, when the Edinburgh-Glasgow express, speeding at 60 miles an hour through a raging blizzard, crashed into a stationary Dundee-Glasgow train at Castlecary, a village 13 miles from Glasgow. All the bodies have been recovered.

This is the worst smash since the Green Green troop trains smash in 1915 when 227 were killed and 250 injured. The rescuers, struggling in deep snow and inky darkness, were forced to build bonfires from the wreckage of the coaches before they could find the dead and injured, who were dragged through the blinding snowstorm and laid out in a goods shed.

Cars Thrown Over Engine  
Two carriages were thrown right over the engine and one landed on top of the engine. Others were telescoped and smashed to pieces.

Hissing jets of steam from the up-turned locomotive combined with a blizzard to add to the frightfulness. The jets penetrated the wreckage and passengers could be heard screaming from the torture of the hot steam.

An uninjured messenger said that at first it was impossible to penetrate the twisted wreckage owing to the snow, steam and darkness.

Cries from women and children went unanswered until half an hour after the crash, when piles of broken coachwork were burning.

Bonfires Aid Rescuers  
Parties of rescuers, their hands almost frozen, dragged out the dead and injured. The bonfires began to shed a lurid glare over the bodies huddled alongside the tracks, with snow covering them with a white pall.

Ambulances dashed from Glasgow, Falkirk, and even Edinburgh, skidding crazily on ice-covered roads. Doctors and nurses from all near by hospitals stood by to treat the injured, who were covered with blood and snow. The victims were lifted into the ambulances by villagers and uninjured passengers. The condition of several of the injured is extremely grave.

Passenger's Discovery  
Mr. Gordon Dickson, of Edinburgh, told a most amazing story. "I was dozing in a compartment in which there were four others," he said, "and I knew nothing until I woke up lying in the snow several yards from the wrecked carriage. I had been hurled through a window uninjured. My four companions were all killed. I helped in the rescue work."

"The first person dragged out was an elderly woman who was buried in the wreckage. I was staggered to find it was my mother, who was travelling unknown to me. She miraculously was uninjured."

Driver Turns Off Steam  
The fireman of the express was at first reported to be killed, but he was later found alive. He had a remarkable escape, suffering minor injuries and severe shock.

The driver of the engine also had a miraculous escape. He was hurled from his cabin. After recovering from the shock, the driver, at the risk of being scalded, climbed through the wreckage and turned off the steam.

BLIZZARD WIDESPREAD  
MANY ACCIDENTS CAUSED  
(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)

LONDON, Dec. 11  
The blizzard that was raging at the time of the Edinburgh-Glasgow express disaster was responsible for accidents all over Great Britain. Shipping and traffic were held up. Snow ploughs were brought into use and were kept busy making way for traffic.

## CONTRACT IN TURKEY

### £3,000,000 BRITISH WORK

### IRON AND STEEL PLANT

British Wireless RUGBY, Dec. 10

Officials of the Treasury and the Export Credits Guarantee Department, Board of Trade, returned from Turkey after discussing formalities arising out of granting a guarantee to cover credits of over £3,000,000 for the erection of an iron and steel plant at Karabuk.

The contract is being carried out by a British firm. About 50 British constructional engineers are supervising the work, and a number of Turkish students are being trained in England to occupy positions on the staff of the new works.

## HEALTH OF THE POPE

### SLIGHT BRONCHIAL CATARRH

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 10

Dr. Milani, after a long examination of the Pope, declared that his Holiness was suffering from slight bronchial catarrh, which, added to his chronic asthma, makes breathing painful. A rest indoors, he said, would effect a cure in time for his Holiness to preside at the Consistory Court on December 13.

## CONTROL OF ECONOMICS

### CHANGES IN GERMANY

BERLIN, Dec. 10

General Goering, in reorganising the Ministry of Economics, dismissed eight trusted collaborators of Dr. Schacht, his predecessor, including the director, Herr Wollt, who drafted the international trade pact.

General Goering is preparing measures which will be a deathblow to Jews still in business, making it impossible for them to obtain raw materials or wholesale goods.

## AMERICAN LINER AGROUND ON A REEF OFF FORMOSA

The United States liner President Hoover (21,936 tons), which is wedged on a reef off Formosa, reports state that the 500 passengers aboard have been landed safely. This picture shows the liner at Shanghai.

## SCENE AT DAWN

### HARROWING SPECTACLE

### RESCUERS WORK IN SLUSH

### CHRISTMAS TOYS IN WRECKAGE

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright  
(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)

LONDON, Dec. 11  
Dawn revealed a harrowing spectacle at the scene of the Edinburgh-Glasgow express disaster. A hundred men were still working with numb fingers. The ghastly hush was broken only by the clank of a crane tearing away masses of twisted steel.

The snow turned to slush and the rescuers worked ankle deep in it. Many had come from the scene of a minor accident at Haddington, 50 miles away, and had not slept since Thursday night. Cameron Highlanders were going home on Christmas leave aboard the wrecked express. Some were injured and others effected gallant rescues. In spite of the cold, they took off their puttees and used them as bandages.

Miners who were passing going to work used their safety lamps. Alongside some of the bodies were Christmas toys which the victims were taking to Glasgow and Edinburgh, where most of the victims lived. Several bodies were unrecognisable. An appeal has been issued for help to identify two men and three women. It is feared that if any passengers are still alive in the wreckage they will perish from cold.

Three men and one woman were recovered from the coach which was piled on the engine.

## NAVAL MIGHT

### UNITED STATES

### EXERCISES IN PACIFIC

### HUGE FORCE TO GATHER

### JAPAN'S PROGRAMME

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright  
(Received December 12, 8.30 p.m.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 12  
The Washington correspondent of the New York Times says the largest naval manoeuvres in the history of the United States will be held over millions of square miles of the Eastern Pacific Ocean in March and April. Approximately 175 warships, 500 aeroplanes and 50,000 to 60,000 men will participate.

It is intended to demonstrate the increasing strategic importance of the Aleutian Islands-Hawaiian-Pacific Coast triangle.

The correspondent says official circles are inclined to credit previous reports that Japan is building larger battleships than any at present afloat.

After study of an article published in the November 7 issue of the Italian newspaper Giornale d'Italia, containing information coinciding with what little is known here, weight is added to the article by the appearance simultaneously of the announcement of the conclusion of the anti-Communist agreement between Japan, Italy and Germany.

The article states that Japan is to construct three 46,000-ton battleships, armed with 16in. guns, and that 43 other warships are actually being built or projected, namely, five aircraft carriers, seven light cruisers, 43 destroyers and eight submarines.

It is contemplated that in 1941 the Japanese Navy will consist of 289 warships of a total displacement of 1,109,000 tons.

EDITOR RETIRING  
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD  
ASSOCIATE TO SUCCEED  
(Received December 12, 5.5 p.m.)

SYDNEY, Dec. 12  
The Sydney Morning Herald announces that at the end of the year Mr. C. Brunson Fletcher, who has been editor of the Herald since 1918, will enter upon leave of absence prior to retirement. His successor will be the present associate-editor, Mr. H. A. McClure Smith.

Mr. Fletcher, who was born in England in 1859, spent 10 years of his boyhood in New Zealand, being a pupil at Wesley College, Auckland. He went to Australia in 1872 and became a surveyor, in which capacity he was on the staff of the detail survey of the city of Sydney carried out by the Govern-

ment. He was closely associated with local government in Queensland before joining the Brisbane Courier as leader-writer in 1893. He later became editor of the Courier, and eventually joined the Sydney Morning Herald in 1903 as associate-editor.

Mr. Smith passed through Auckland in December of last year on his way to Sydney from London to take up his present position with the Herald, immediately prior to which he was a leader-writer on the London Times. Mr. Smith was for several years correspondent for the Times in New York and Washington. He was also a special correspondent for the Sydney Morning Herald and had done a good deal of work for English periodicals.

CONTROL OF ECONOMICS  
CHANGES IN GERMANY  
BERLIN, Dec. 10

General Goering, in reorganising the Ministry of Economics, dismissed eight trusted collaborators of Dr. Schacht, his predecessor, including the director, Herr Wollt, who drafted the international trade pact.

General Goering is preparing measures which will be a deathblow to Jews still in business, making it impossible for them to obtain raw materials or wholesale goods.

FLYING TO ANTIPODES  
PROGRESS OF MACHINES  
CENTAURUS AT SINGAPORE  
(Received December 12, 9.30 p.m.)

RUGBY, Dec. 12  
The squadron of Royal Air Force flying-boats on a flight from England to Australia arrived at Karachi this afternoon.

The Empire flying-boat Centaurus, on a survey flight to New Zealand and back, has arrived at Singapore.

FUND FOR SAILORS  
£1,000,000 DISTRIBUTED  
(Received December 12, 9.30 p.m.)

RUGBY, Dec. 12  
The Duke of Kent, who presided at the annual meeting of King George's Fund for Sailors, said that the fund had distributed £1,000,000 in grants to nautical charities since its inauguration in 1917.

HEALTH OF THE POPE  
SLIGHT BRONCHIAL CATARRH  
VATICAN CITY, Dec. 10

Dr. Milani, after a long examination of the Pope, declared that his Holiness was suffering from slight bronchial catarrh, which, added to his chronic asthma, makes breathing painful. A rest indoors, he said, would effect a cure in time for his Holiness to preside at the Consistory Court on December 13.

CONTROL OF ECONOMICS  
CHANGES IN GERMANY  
BERLIN, Dec. 10

General Goering, in reorganising the Ministry of Economics, dismissed eight trusted collaborators of Dr. Schacht, his predecessor, including the director, Herr Wollt, who drafted the international trade pact.

General Goering is preparing measures which will be a deathblow to Jews still in business, making it impossible for them to obtain raw materials or wholesale goods.

FLYING TO ANTIPODES  
PROGRESS OF MACHINES  
CENTAURUS AT SINGAPORE  
(Received December 12, 9.30 p.m.)

RUGBY, Dec. 12  
The squadron of Royal Air Force flying-boats on a flight from England to Australia arrived at Karachi this afternoon.

The Empire flying-boat Centaurus, on a survey flight to New Zealand and back, has arrived at Singapore.

FUND FOR SAILORS  
£1,000,000 DISTRIBUTED  
(Received December 12, 9.30 p.m.)

RUGBY, Dec. 12  
The Duke of Kent, who presided at the annual meeting of King George's Fund for Sailors, said that the fund had distributed £1,000,000 in grants to nautical charities since its inauguration in 1917.

HEALTH OF THE POPE  
SLIGHT BRONCHIAL CATARRH  
VATICAN CITY, Dec. 10

Dr. Milani, after a long examination of the Pope, declared that his Holiness was suffering from slight bronchial catarrh, which, added to his chronic asthma, makes breathing painful. A rest indoors, he said, would effect a cure in time for his Holiness to preside at the Consistory Court on December 13.

CONTROL OF ECONOMICS  
CHANGES IN GERMANY  
BERLIN, Dec. 10

General Goering, in reorganising the Ministry of Economics, dismissed eight trusted collaborators of Dr. Schacht, his predecessor, including the director, Herr Wollt, who drafted the international trade pact.

General Goering is preparing measures which will be a deathblow to Jews still in business, making it impossible for them to obtain raw materials or wholesale goods.

## ITALY DECIDES

### LEAVING THE LEAGUE

### ANNOUNCEMENT TO NATION

### ENTHUSIASM IN ROME

### SIGNOR MUSSOLINI'S MUCH-HERALDED STATEMENT, IN SPITE OF MANY CONJECTURES, PROVED TO BE ONLY AN EXPLANATION OF ITALY'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS, WHICH SIGNOR STARACE, SECRETARY OF THE FASCIST PARTY, FIRST ANNOUNCED.

By Telegraph—Press Association—Copyright  
(Received December 12, 7.30 p.m.)

ROME, Dec. 12  
Signor Mussolini's much-heralded statement, in spite of many conjectures, proved to be only an explanation of Italy's withdrawal from the League of Nations, which Signor Starace, secretary of the Fascist Party, first announced.

The stage had been set with Fascist thoroughness for the notable event. In spite of pelting rain thousands of parents and widows, beamed in the Great War and the Abyssinian and Spanish campaigns, thronged the steps of the floodlit Victor Emanuel monument.

Giant blue and white searchlights lit up the entire length of the Empire Way, on which five battalions of steel-helmeted Black Shirts, who are shortly going to East Africa, were massed, flanked by battalions of young Fascists and university students, who filled the square before the Palazzo Venezia. Thousands of civilians under umbrellas passed the time singing Fascist songs.

Statement from Balcony  
Signor Starace appeared on the balcony at 10 p.m. and shouted: "Black Shirts. It is a solemn moment. The Grand Council is deliberating."

The meeting lasted for three minutes, after which Signor Starace announced that Italy was leaving the League, but the announcement was not heard as Signor Starace disturbed the wires with his foot when approaching the microphone.

Signor Mussolini immediately strode from the windows and was received with tumultuous shouts of "Duce, Duce." All the sirens in Rome sounded a salute. Signor Mussolini held up his hand for silence, completely ignoring the rain. His first words were not heard as the amplifier was not functioning, and his voice came as a series of croaks.

Could not Be Delayed  
The wireless broadcast to Europe was also interfered with by the mishap, but engineers speedily restored matters. Signor Mussolini said: "The historic decision which the Grand Council acclaimed and you enthusiastically received could no longer be delayed. We have for many years offered the world a spectacle of unexampled patience. We have not forgotten and shall not forget the shameful attempt at strangulation of the Italian people perpetrated at Geneva."

"The League has not made the reparation which was due. The good intentions of certain